Irrigation by canals

1661. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite a staggering amount of funds to the tune of Rs. 1,30,000 crores spent on irrigation in the last decade or so, not a single hectare has been added to the total area irrigated by canals;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this conclusion has emerged on the basis of a study based on official data furnished under the RTI Act and reports of the Agriculture and Water Resources Ministries; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) The expenditure incurred by States for major and medium irrigation projects during the IX and X Plan is reported to be about Rs. 1,33,000 crore. During the same period, creation of additional irrigation potential of 9.4 million hectares has been reported by the States. The State Governments have further reported about utilization of additional 5.98 million hectare of the irrigation potential during this period.

(b) and (c) A news report in the "Mail Today" dated 1st October 2009 which refers to "the conclusion of a study based on official data obtained under the Right to Information Act and the reports of Agriculture and Water Resources Ministries". No such study has been carried out by the Ministry of Water Resources and no conclusion has been drawn. The news report refers to study carried out by South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People. However, as per the information provided by the States to the Working Group on Water Resources for XI Five year Plan, a total of 235 major and medium irrigation projects have been reported as completed during IX Plan and X Plan period. In addition to 9.4 million hectare of created irrigation potential during IX and X Plan through major and medium projects, creation of irrigation potential of 1.25 million hectare has also been reported by the States during the first two years of XI Plan.

Irrigation and flood protection embankment

1662. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his ministry has received any proposal from Orissa Government regarding the irrigation and flood protection embankment in Bramhan, Birapa and Kelva project and it is pending at the level of Government for years together;

(b) the total and catchment area and total cost of the project; and

(c) by when Government could approve it?